

Friends,

Once again good evening to what is probably my 52nd general meeting of the Community after a service of over 25 years.

Once again I wish to move away from the accepted form of reporting by the Chairman on behalf of the Committee, as I feel that the financial statements, discussion of the budget, reports by the Church, School and Cultural Committee, will involve a lot of discussion and detail reporting by the relevant Chairmen.

I, therefore, wish to make the following statement which summarises our Community effort:

Our Community continues to function very well. It is providing the services that are expected of it, namely - scholastic, Ecclesiastical, social and cultural activities of a very high standard.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me however, stress one tremendous weakness in our Community - perhaps it is a problem of other Communities, I do not know. This observation is also endorsed by the various sub-committees of our Community. Namely -

We lack sufficient support and attendance from our Community members. The residents of Alberton are aware of their Community and its functions. They know what service it provides and from time to time they avail themselves of this service when needed - especially the Church.

We welcome the fact that members utilize the Community's services from time to time, but we feel that they can respond more by attending and supporting more of the Community's activities. Not only for their own personal enjoyment, but also to assist the Community financially as a result of their involvement and participation.

The residents of Alberton must learn to realise that the Community is an extension of their home life. It provides schooling, satisfies the Greek Orthodox Ecclesiastical needs, cultural activity and naturally the social activity. All these are second to none. Our standard has always been very high. Please let us press on and keep the flame alive and ensure that we get as many of our locals to attend the activities wherever possible.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I now wish to thank:

Firstly, the Church Committee ably lead by Mr. N. Papadoyiannakis, Father George Kandilanaptis, the Cantor Mr. Papas, the Vice Chairman Mr. S. Zapras and members of the Committee, Messrs. T. Papadoyiannakis, M. Patsis, P. Patsis, P. Retsos, G. Masha, A. Nicolaou, J. Markatselis, E. Markatselis, C. Markatselis, John and Basil Billis, P. Perakis, N. Stathoulis, K. Economou, Terry Pittakidis, S. Kandilanaptis.

This Committee's wonderful effort is sincerely thanked and I must mention that it is so pleasing to see so many of our youth participating in the Church Committee. You will of course, be further informed about the Church matters by Mr. Papadoyiannakis, who undoubtedly will also elaborate on the Church fete and other activities.

Second, I wish to thank the Chairman of the School Committee Mr. Deroukakis and the Committee, Messrs. P. Kandralides, Mr. & Mrs. O. Joannides, Mr. & Mrs. Plastourgos, Mrs. Deroukakis, Mr. Zachas

I wish to welcome Mr. Apostolos Giannakoulas, our new teacher to Alberton. He has shifted into the footsteps of Mr. Antoniou Charalambakis with jest, and I am certain that one and all are beginning to feel his presence and the target that he has set himself for the benefit of our children. I wish to thank Mrs. Giannakoulas as well for voluntary undertaking to teach our children dancing.

Mr. Deroukakis will be addressing you on school matters, and wish to thank him and his Committee for having joined forces with the teacher to assist our children wherever possible, but especially for having become aware of the Community's plight that the Community has to subsidize the school to the tune of approximately R19 000 per annum. They on their own accord are to arrange certain functions in order to gather funds and which naturally will provide additional social activity for the Community. One such function which I am sure we will all be looking forward to, is the New Year's dance to be organised by the School Committee on the 31st December, 1988.

We however, will receive the detail report from Mr. Deroukakis.

Thirdly, the Cultural Committee which has very much enriched our Community and the Hellenes in general, is sincerely thanked under the leadership of Messrs. Markatselis, Mr. Moutsatsos and Palmos. Let it be noted that they also provided a financial gain to the Community of R7 243.00.

I understand that we are in for another pleasant surprise, but I would rather that you be addressed by Mr. Markatselis regarding this matter.

Forthly, Social Activities - our social activities have been successful. We have had very successful dances - socials. Our TAVli competitions have become very popular under the supervision of Messrs. Zapras and Palmos, and naturally our big draw competition which netts the Community approximately R30 000 per annum ably organised by Mr. Zaroudoukas. We have no doubt that we will continue to provide successful activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish to end by thanking you all for your wonderful support, but above all I want to thank my Central Committee in name for what they have done. Namely our Vice-Chairman, Mr. Marcandonatos, Honorary Secretary Mr. George Georgiou, the Treasurer Mr. Kandralides, our Committee members - Messrs. Papadoyiannakis, Zaroudoukas, Joannides, C. Palmos, S. Zapras and P. Deroukakis.

I wish to thank Messrs. Pittakidis and Charalambous for their continued Church assistance.

I thank Mr. Commianides our caretaker, for the excellent work that he is doing, and of course Johannes Nong for his faithful assistance.

I thank Mrs., Deroukakis for undertaking to organise the Christmas Tree.

Last but not least, I want to thank the Hellenic Caterers, Mesdames Papadoyiannakis and Billis for their continued support and assistance as well as that of Mr. Lazarus Billis.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you all.

30.11.1988.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I feel that after more than 25 years of service to the Community and knowing that the foundations of the Community have been solidly built by the wonderful Committee members and naturally furthered by the present Committee and Sub-Committees.

We have ensured a very good structure and programme for the Community and have no doubt that this will continue to be the case in the future.

It really has been a pleasure to work with such wonderful people throughout my Chairmanship of over 25 years, and I must stress that the success of the Community has not been to any one single effort. If I have been an able Chairman, it has only been because of the wonderful support from the Committee members.

However, I do feel that the time has now sadly arrived for me to tender my retirement. I stress not resignation from the Committee, but retirement and I have no doubt that I am not going to be begrudged this privilege.

I thank you all and wish to stress that although I may not be an active member in the administration of the Committee, I promise you that the Community is my home and I am very proud of the Alberton Hellenic Community. Throughout my years as Chairman, it has taught me a lot, it has allowed me to be associated with wonderful people and to have been part of an organisation that has managed so much in serving Hellenism and society in general. I have no doubt that it is going to continue to be an asset to not only South African Hellenism, but to society in general and naturally I would like to be able to be of assistance wherever and whenever possible.

Thank you.

30.11.1988.

Speech  
File  
2 copies in CR  
A Series